

HOUSE BILL NO. 54

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KOTT, Grussendorf, Kemplen

Introduced: 1/13/97

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska education technology program; and providing for
2 an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) 75 percent of the labor force in the state is unprepared to deal with rapidly
6 changing technology;

7 (2) the education system and publicly funded libraries can help in creating a
8 trained and productive labor force;

9 (3) education technology has the potential to improve the academic
10 performance of students, to prepare students for work in a technological society, and to assist
11 with education reform;

12 (4) schools and publicly funded libraries lack adequate hardware, software, and
13 training for students, patrons, and educators in education technology;

14 (5) in order to implement effective education technology programs, teacher

1 training and active participation is essential;

2 (6) there is a need for a central agency to coordinate education technology
3 efforts in the state and to increase awareness of sources of funds and equipment for
4 developing education technology.

5 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish the Alaska education technology program,
6 to provide teachers, library staff, and other instructional personnel with training in how to
7 apply education technology in meeting instructional objectives and to provide the necessary
8 equipment and materials to effectively utilize education technology within the adopted
9 curricula throughout the rural and urban schools and in publicly funded libraries of this state.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 **Article 12. Alaska Education Technology.**

12 **Sec. 14.30.800. Alaska education technology fund established.** (a) The
13 Alaska education technology fund is established in the department. The purpose of the
14 fund is to (1) enhance the quality and equity of education at public elementary and
15 secondary schools by providing project or grant money needed to purchase, install, and
16 maintain education technology in classrooms; (2) provide training in the use of
17 education technology to help students and teachers achieve student performance
18 standards; (3) provide access to networks for public schools and publicly funded
19 libraries through the University of Alaska computer network, the Department of
20 Administration computer network, or other means consistent with the program
21 developed under AS 44.21.315(c); and (4) provide education technology, including
22 computer and resource sharing systems, to publicly funded libraries. The fund consists
23 of legislative appropriations to the fund and public or private donations made for the
24 purpose of the fund.

25 (b) A project or grant application shall be submitted on a form prescribed by
26 the department. A project or grant application may be submitted to the department by
27 a school district on behalf of a public school or by a publicly funded library.

28 (c) The department shall award and administer grants and contracts under this
29 section.

30 **Sec. 14.30.810. Required duties of department.** The department shall

31 (1) develop and promote the use of education technology to

- 1 (A) improve student learning capabilities;
- 2 (B) foster collaboration between elementary and secondary
3 schools as well as postsecondary institutions; and
- 4 (C) provide access to training and support resources for students
5 and staff;
- 6 (2) recommend outstanding education technology programs or products
7 for use by school districts in the state;
- 8 (3) develop plans to utilize distance learning technology and provide
9 leadership in implementing the use of distance learning technology;
- 10 (4) encourage parental involvement in the use and development of
11 education technology;
- 12 (5) make recommendations to the board on plans, policies, programs,
13 and activities relating to education technology;
- 14 (6) identify methods to reduce the costs to school districts of
15 implementing education technology, including the costs of access to national and
16 international computer services; and
- 17 (7) advise school districts on sources of gifts or grants of education
18 technology and application procedures for receiving the gifts or grants.

19 **Sec. 14.30.820. Powers and duties of the commissioner of revenue.** The
20 commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the fund and has the duty to do all acts,
21 whether or not expressly authorized, that the commissioner of revenue considers
22 necessary or proper in administering the assets of the fund.

23 **Sec. 14.30.850. Definitions.** In AS 14.30.800 - 14.30.850,

- 24 (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;
- 25 (2) "education technology" means instructional equipment and materials
26 that are used to enhance the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning, to
27 improve the development and training of teachers, and to enhance access to information
28 in libraries, including hardware, software, and telecommunications;
- 29 (3) "fund" means the Alaska education technology fund;
- 30 (4) "publicly funded library" means a library eligible for a grant under
31 AS 14.56.310.

32 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1997.